

INFORMATION REPORT CD NO

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR 13 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Rumor of HSIEN Nan-kuang Becoming Governor of Taiwan

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Should CH'EN Ch'ong be replaced as Governor of Taiwan, there is a rumor that his most likely successor is HSIEN Nan-kuang (謝南光), also known as HSIEN Ch'un-mau (謝春茂), a member of the Kuomintang (KMT) and a member of the Chinese delegation in Tokyo, who arrived in Taiwan early in January 1949. During HSIEN's recent tour of the island he expressed to Chinese officials in Taiwan his willingness to become governor. Many Chinese officials in Taiwan believe HSIEN a logical choice for CH'EN's replacement, as HSIEN would have the support of many Taiwanese, and because he is an opportunist who would be obedient to the KMT. HSIEN is not highly regarded by members of the Taiwanese independence movement because of his affiliation with the KMT.
2. HSIEN is about forty years of age; he was born in Taiwan and received a normal school education in Japan. He taught Taiwanese in an elementary school in Taiwan, and later became a newspaper reporter. He was imprisoned by the Japanese on suspicion of being a Communist. After he was released he fled to Shanghai where he joined the KMT, married the daughter of a government official (unidentified), and eventually became a major general. HSIEN worked for the Central Government in Chungking during the war, and later was appointed a member of the Chinese delegation to Japan.
3. Since his return in January to Taiwan, he has been touring the island delivering lectures on the current situation in Japan. While his speeches are somewhat critical of the American occupation policy in Japan, his line seems designed primarily to influence Taiwanese youth toward China and away from Japan. HSIEN points out the difficult living conditions for these youth in Japan, and uses all possible examples to urge the youth to recognize that the future of Taiwan lies with the mother country, China.
4. HSIEN has lectured in the cities of Tainan, Kaohsiung (Takao), Changhua (Shoka), Keelung (Kiirun), and Taipei (Taihoku). HSIEN left Taiwan for the mainland on 8 February, but he returned by 17 February; on that day he made a speech before the Provincial Information Department.**

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Here, as in the case of all reports of rumors, the grading of content as "possibly true" refers to the possibility of rumors existing, and not to the truth of the fact rumored. In this case it appears highly unlikely that the KMT would consider a man of HSIEN's calibre for such a post. However, certain Chinese officials may have the reported opinions on his chances.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. This presumably occurred in Taipei.

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